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# News Release

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**For Release:**

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## J. Percy Priest Overlook Gets Major Face-lift

**NASHVILLE, TENN, Aug. 25, 2004** — The overlook on J. Percy Priest Dam will be closed on Friday, Aug. 27, to renovate the area. The closure is expected to last about three months.

Renovations to the overlook involve a redesign of the existing parking configuration and will require a temporary closure of the area while work is underway. The changes to the area are necessary to reduce unneeded parking and to improve safety and security for visitors to the overlook.

Facility Manager Greg Thomas said, “This renovation is continuing effort of the Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes initiative. This is a great program that is allowing us the opportunity to make some much needed improvements around the lake.” It will be necessary for the area to remain closed for approximately 3 months to complete the work and allow establishment of vegetation within the area.

Improvements to the J. Percy Priest Overlook are being performed to improve safety, security, and aesthetics of the area. Redesign plans include a one-way traffic loop through the area to improve traffic flow and provide safe entrance and exit from the area. Approximately 60 parking spaces will be redesigned to accommodate one-way traffic flow, and a large portion of the paved area will be removed and replaced with topsoil and grass. Trees will also be planted throughout the area, and will likely provide shade for additional features such as park benches or other features.

Visitors to J. Percy Priest Dam are also going to notice some other improvements within the next year. “We have been receiving quite a bit of public interest in the work going on below the dam, and Metro Parks will soon have a quality facility available that will allow visitors to access the Stones River Greenway,” said Resource Manager Todd Yann. The area being developed below J. Percy Priest Dam will eventually connect with the Shelby Bottoms Greenway. Please contact the Resource Manager's Office at J. Percy Priest Lake (615) 889-1975 for additional information.